



ONE BOOK ~ ONE COMMUNITY  
**ONE READ**



## **“The Briar Club”**

**Like what you read?** Read-alikes are suggestions for readers who enjoy the works of a particular author and would like recommendations of other authors who write in a similar style or genre.

### **Read-alikes**

**The All American** by Susie Finkbeiner

**The House of Eve** by Sadeqa Johnson

**The Eights** by Joanna Miller

**Lavender House** by Lev AC Rosen

**The Orphans of Mersea House** by Marty Wingate

**Typewriter Beach** by Meg Waite Clayton

**The Traitor Beside Her** by Mary Anna Evans

**The Lunar Housewife** by Caroline Woods

**The Henna Artist** by Alka Joshi

**Wise Gals: The Spies Who Built the CIA and Changed the Future of Espionage** by Nathalia Holt

**Baking Yesteryear: The Best Recipes From the 1900s to the 1980s** by B. Dylan Hollis

### **Book discussion questions for “The Briar Club”**

Did this book challenge or change your perspective on any historical events or figures? Did it make you want to learn more about them?

The novel is set against the backdrop of the Red Scare and McCarthyism. How do these historical events impact the lives and choices of the characters?

Briarwood house itself narrates some of the chapters. How does the house’s perspective shape the reader’s understanding of the events and characters? Did you enjoy hearing from an inanimate object?

Food plays a significant part in the story. Discuss the symbolic meaning of the Briar Club’s communal meals and how they foster a sense of belonging. What dish would you bring to a Briar Club meeting?

Compare and contrast the different women living at Briarwood House. How do their backgrounds, personalities, and secrets contribute to the dynamics of the group? How do these female characters challenge traditional gender roles?

In the story, the theme of abusive authority is prevalent throughout the Briar Club. How does the novel illustrate the parallels between political and personal tyranny?

How does the novel address the impact of war and trauma on individuals and society?

What were some of your favorite scenes from the book? Why did they stand out to you?

Discuss the murder mystery. Were you expecting it to play a larger role in the story? Were you surprised by who the victim and who the perpetrator were?

Whose point of view did you most enjoy inhabiting? Alternatively, which character did you have the most difficulty connecting with, and what contributed to that?